

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
AGRE-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 BIB-01 FCC-02 OTPE-00
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 /158 W

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TAGS: ECOSOC, ECA

SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 4-REGIONAL COOPERATION--TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA

REF: A. GENEVA 6105; B. STATE 171989

1. QUOTED BELOW IS REVISED TEXT (CORRECTED VERSION ONLY JUST AVAILABLE) OF G-77 RESOLUTION E/L.1776 ON THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA, WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN PLENARY ON JULY 29 BY VOTE OF 40-0-5 (SOVIET BLOC, WHICH CALLED FOR THE VOTE). THE MAIN BONE OF CONTENTION WAS A REFERENCE TO CIEC.

2. WHEN DRAFT RESOLUTION IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM (REF A), WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN PLENARY BY KENYA, WAS DISCUSSED ON JULY 25, CANADA PROPOSED ADDING A PREAMBULAR PARA NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE CIEC DECISION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA. SOVIETS OBJECTED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN CIEC, AND ALSO RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT

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THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE OPERATIVE PARAS. KENYA AGREED TO A CONTACT GROUP.

3. IN TWO CONTACT GROUP MEETINGS, ATTENDED MAINLY BY AFRICANS, WEOS (INCLUDING US) AND SOVIET BLOC, REVISIONS IN OPERATIVE PARAS WERE WORKED OUT SEEMINGLY TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. WEOS (INCLUDING US) AND AFRI-

CANS STAUNCHLY DEFENDED INCLUDING A PREAMBULAR PARA REFERRING TO THE CIEC DECISION IN VIEW OF ITS DIRECT PERTINENCE WHICH COULD NOT BE IGNORED; ALSO POINTING OUT THAT MANY RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING OTHER PARAS OF THIS DRAFT, REFER TO MEETINGS THAT NOT ALL MEMBERS HAD ATTENDED; AND THE AFRICANS MAKING A PARTICULAR POINT OF THE FACT THAT THE CIEC DECISION WAS AN AFRICAN INITIATIVE. SOVIET BLOC (THROUGH UKRAINIAN SPOKESMAN) STUBBORNLY RESISTED ON GGROUNDS THAT NON-PARTICIPATION IN CIEC WAS "DIFFERENT" AND THAT CIEC WAS QUESTION FOR RESUMED 31ST GA TO DISCUSS. AFRICANS, CLEARLY ANNOYED BY THE SOVIET BLOC, DECIDED TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY, ALTHOUGH THEY DID MAKE THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED PARA MORE NEUTRAL IN HOPES THE SOVIET BLOC MIGHT IN THE END GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS AND SIMPLY EXPRESS A RESERVATION.

4. IN JULY 29 PLENARY KENYA INTRODUCED THE REVISED VERSION. POLAND REQUESTED A VOTE BECAUSE OF THE PREAMBULAR PARA. UKRAINE (SPEAKING ALSO FOR BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND USSR) EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BUT ANNOUNCED THE FIVE WOULD ABSTAIN (1) BECAUSE OF THE RESOLUTION'S UNLIMITED APPEAL FOR RESOURCES FROM UN AGENCIES WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE PLAN WOULD ENTAIL OR THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE BLOC REPS HAD GONE ALONG WITH THESE REVISIONS IN THE CONTACT GROUP), AND (2) BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCE TO CIEC IN WHICH SOVIALIST COUNTRIES DID NOT TAKE PART AND HENCE HAD NO UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSIBLIITY FOR ITS DECISIONS. CANADA SPOKE WARMLY OF THE CIEC DECISION AND AFRICAN INITIATIVE FOR IT, STATED THE REFERENCE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THE CIEC DECISION, REGRETTED THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES POSITION AND ASKED THEM TO RECONSIDER.

5. AFTER THE VOTE US MADE EXPLANATION, FIRST PART OF WHICH FOLLOWS: QUOTE MY DELEGATION IS PLEASED TO HAVE JOINED IN SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION WE HAVE JUST ADOPTED, AS WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WILL MAKE TOWARD THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. IN LAUNCHING THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA, THIS RESOLUTION REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN INITIATING SPECIFIC PLANS TO THAT END. IT ALSO RECOGNIZES THE WORK BEGUN IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE COSPONSORS HAVE ALSO ADDED A PREAMBLUAR PARAGRAPH REFERRING TO THE DECISION OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CALLING ON DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO JOIN AFRICAN

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN HELPING DEFINE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AFRICAN TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE AND IN MOBILIZING EFFORTS AND MEANS TO ACHIEVE THOSE OBJECTIVES. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED WARMLY IN THAT DECISION, WHICH RESULTED FROM AN INITIATIVE OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE SECOND PART FOLLOWED SCRIPT PROVIDED IN REF B, WITH MINOR CHANGES TO FIT THE RENUMBERING OF OPERATIVE PARAS OF REVISED RESOLUTION.

6. UGANDA ASKED THAT THE DECADE FAVOR THE LAND-LOCKED, AND IRAQ (CLEARLY REFERRING TO THE CALL ON ALL MEMBER STATES, IN PARTICULAR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND "THOSE IN A POSITION TO DO SO"), STATED ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT RESPON-
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SIBILITY FOR PROVING RESOURCES FALLS ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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7. TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING DRAFT RESOLUTION:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

"RECALLING ITS RESOLUTIONS 2626 (XXV) OF 24 OCTOBER 1970 ON THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DACADE, 3202 (S-VI) OF 1 MAY 1974 ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND 3362 (S-VII) OF 16 SEPT. 1975 ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, AND IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
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"RECOGNIZING THE URGENT NEED TO IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR,

"NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE INITIATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTEGRATED AFRICAN ROAD NETWORK AND THE RATIONALIZATION OF AFRICA'S RAILWAY SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROMOTION OF MULTINATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN AFRICA, INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE AND THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF AFRICA,

"COMMENDING RESOLUTION 291 (XIII) OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA ENTITLED 'TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA', ADOPTED AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION (FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS),

"NOTING SECTION III, SUBSECTION D OF THE ANNEX TO THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE, AND IN PARTICULAR PARAGRAPH 8 OF THAT SUBSECTION DEALING WITH AFRICA,

"CONVINCED THAT EFFECTIVE SUPPORT IS REQUIRED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLVING AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN THESE SECTORS,

"CONVINCED FURTHER OF THE NEED TO ADOPT AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE FORMULATION OF A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA, TAK-
ING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE PROBLEMS FACING THE CONTINENT IN
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THIS FIELD,

"NOTING FURTHER WITH APPRECIATION THE PROGRESS MADE IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK,
WHICH IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY, THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION AND THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA,

"WELCOMING THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES IN THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
AND SERVICES, IN PARTICULAR THAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELE-
COMMUNICATION UNION, WHICH, AS THE LEAD AGENCY, HAS THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REGULATION, CO-ORDINATION AND HARMONI-
ZATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD,

"1. ENDORSES THE RECOMMENDATION MADE IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF
RESOLUTION 291 (XIII) OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
ADOPTED AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION (FOURTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS) AND PROCLAIMS A TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA DURING THE YEARS 1978-1988,
WITH A VIEW TO:

(A) GIVING ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATION AND IM-
PLEMENTATION OF A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE CONTINENT IN THIS FIELD;

(B) MOBILIZING THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE;

"2. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN CO-OPERATION WITH
THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF THE AGENCIES CONCERNED, TO PROVIDE
ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN STATES IN THE PRE-
PARATION OF A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE AND TO
CO-ORDINATE THE MOBILIZATION OF THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL
AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO MAKE THE DECADE A
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SUCCESS;

"3. CALLS UPON ALL MEMBER STATES, IN PARTICULAR THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES AND OTHERS IN A POSITION TO DO SO, TO PARTICIPATE

EFFECTIVELY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES TO ACHIEVE
THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DECADE;

"4. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IN CONSULTATION WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION AND OTHER SPECIAL-
IZED AGENCIES CONCERNED, TO PROPOSE FOR CONSIDERATION, AS
APPROPRIATE, ONE YEAR DURING THE DECADE AS A WORLD COMMUNICA-
TIONS YEAR, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATION TO OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD AND TO SUBMIT
A REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-
FIFTH SESSION CONTAINING A DETAILED PROGRAMME OF MEASURES
AND ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING SUCH A YEAR;

"5. FURTHER REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SUBMIT TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION, THROUGH
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION,
A DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION ON THE
PRESENT RESOLUTION, AND TO SUBMIT THEREAFTER ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORTS".VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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